

5 January 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: River Resources Coordinating Team (RRCT) Meeting

1. The RRCT met on October 20th, 2004 in the Rock Island District's ABC Conference Room. The following were in attendance.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ed Britton
Jon Duyvejonck
Bob Clevensine

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Mike Griffin

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Robert Schanzle
Jim Mick

Missouri Department of Conservation

Janet Sternburg

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Gretchen Benjamin

Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

Mike Cox	Roger Perk	Mark Schroeder
Steve Johnson	Mark Cornish	Linda Bergo
Ken Barr	Shirley Johnson	Brad Thompson
Steve Russell	Ken Cook	Teresa Kincaid
Mark Anderson		

2. Gretchen Benjamin began the meeting with introductions. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The agenda for the meeting (enclosure 1) was reviewed. No changes were made.
3. Budget Update. Mark Schroeder briefed on FY 05 appropriations. The Corps of Engineers is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR). It is uncertain when Congress will complete the appropriation process, but a CR is expected to continue until after the election.
4. Meeting Schedule. The next RRCT meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 18th 2005 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. It will be held in Rock Island at the Corps of Engineers' District Conference Room.
5. Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP). Mark Anderson requested RRCT approval of the Sabula DMMP report. Mike Griffin made a motion to approve, Bob Clevensine seconded and the motion carried.

6. Navigation Study. Ken Barr briefed the attendees on the status of the Navigation Study. The Draft Feasibility study is on schedule and over 80,000 comments had been received during the public review.
 - The planned implementation of the study including navigation and ecosystem restoration was discussed.
 - The RRCT was briefed on the results of the National Academy review. It was noted that the academy provided a balance of comments including noting improvements to the study and also areas for further action.
 - Discussed the need for institutional arrangements. There is a need to meet and discuss the different institutional arrangements such as the RRCT and to develop new ones as needed and the re-chartering of current teams. Chuck Spitzak is the new Project Manager for the Nav Study.
 - Mike Griffin (IADNR) opened a discussion on the cost share part of the Nav study that would deal with ecosystem restoration and asked if Corps funding could be used to acquire land and who would own the land. Current Corp policy limits the use of Corps ecosystem funds for land acquisition. However, these issues will be finalized following authorization.
7. EMP. Roger Perk reported the following general program and project-specific status information.
 - Briefed on the status of the President's Budget vs. program budget.
 - Discussed the differences in the House budget and the program budget. The House budget (\$16M) is less than the amount in the President's budget (\$28M).
 - Discussed the ITRC, HREP and LTRMP programs. The group discussed the under funding of the LTRMP and that the current effort was less than a level desired by the State partners.
8. Illinois River Ecosystem Study. Brad Thompson provided a detailed update on the Illinois River study.
 - Briefed the group on the comprehensive plan, scheduled for pubic review in early 2005, and the different critical restoration projects.
 - The projects include restoration at Peoria Lake, Pekin Lake Northern Unit, Pekin Lake Southern Unit, and Waubonsie Creek. These projects are in design and will be ready for potential construction in FY06.
 - Major issues the team is working on include a request for extension of the construction authorization which expired on September 30, 2004 and completion of the comp plan.
9. Environmental CAP. Brad Thompson reported on the following.
 - Funding both Sections 1135 and 206 projects was greatly reduced in the second half of FY04 and is likely to remain constrained in FY05.
 - One Section 204 and four Section 206 projects were still active at the end of FY04.
 - Based on funding in the current CR (through 20 Nov) the District only received \$24k. All these funds are being directed to the Kankakee State Line project in order to finalize an Independent Technical Review Draft. All other projects are on hold pending availability of funding.
10. UMR Comprehensive Plan. Teresa Kincaid reported on the following:
 - Flood damage reduction is the primary purpose of the Study.
 - Team is currently evaluating various levels of protection alternatives (confined and unconfined).
 - The hydraulic impacts of various actions (e.g. flood fighting) are being evaluated.
 - Any impacts to the MR&T will be minimized.

- Collaboration team input to the NED/NER is being coordinated.
 - There is \$944K in the FY05 President's budget.
 - Recommended plan needs to be economically justified.
11. Flow Frequency Study. Shirley Johnson provided the following status update on Flow Frequency Study.
- Final report and appendices are available thru the web site.
 - Portfolio plates were developed for UMR.
 - Elevation data (DEM's, break lines and mass points) being made available via Internet.
 - Query tool developed to find profiles by river mile.
 - Floodway Computations
 - UMR deliverables late June/early July.
 - Project coordinated with States and FEMA with UMRBA facilitation support.
12. Planning Assistance to States (PAS)/Floodplain Management Services (FPMS). Andy Leichty reported on the PAS and FPMS program status.
- Funding status of the program. There are greater needs than funds. Program is under funded.
 - PAS - Sunset Marina entrance channel numerical and micro models being developed to support solutions to siltation problems.
 - PAS - LaSalle/I&M Canal dredging plan being developed for restoration of limited reach of canal.
 - FPMS – SOW for H&H analysis of Joyces Slough, Clinton, IA is being developed.
13. DMMP. Mike Cox provided a presentation on the District's DMMP program.
- Reviewed products completed or significantly advance in FY04.
 - Current FY05 budget: IWW - \$973k UMR - \$810k.
 - Identified FY05 products.
 - The discussion of real estate acquisition issues was tabled until the January meeting when members of the Rock Island RE Division will be present.
14. DMMP Channel Maintenance Pool Planning. Steve Johnson provided a presentation on District Channel Maintenance (CM) pool planning initiative.
- The CM pool plans will contribute to overall District systemic/comprehensive pool planning goal.
 - CM pool planning priorities will be pools 18 & 21 on the UMR and LaGrange pool on the IWW.
 - Efforts this fiscal year will be focused on Pool 18 and LaGrange.
 - CM pool plans are primarily intended to address channel maintenance dredging and dredged material placement activities and CARS. Certain other pool planning components, such as navigation facilities (e.g. access needs, harbors, etc.) and permitted activities (e.g. stream crossings, etc.) may also be incorporated.
15. 404 Studies. Mark Cornish presented a fish study conducted by the USFWS.
- Two study sites at Quincy and Havana Illinois.
 - The study centered on the individual species located in the Mississippi River and Illinois River and the effects of dredged material placement.

16. CARS. Mike Cox provided the following update:

- Sabula rock work has been completed, due to an unscheduled influx of funds for this effort. This was welcome after the previous delays.
- IADNR is monitoring fish (radio tagging) – the Corps paid for the replacement tags and IADNR is scheduled to begin monitoring next month.
- IADNR is providing tracking labor and resources.
- Pool 18 Micromodel study is ongoing and should be complete early FY05.
- CARS meeting will focus on FY05 schedule.

17. Dredging Update. Mark Anderson provided the following updates on the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) and the Illinois Waterway (ILWW).

- UMR
 - Dredged less volume than average year (293,000 CY compared to 362,000 CY), due to lack of suitable placement options.
 - Started “bathtub” site excavation at Willow Bar Island.
 - Started coordination with St. Louis District for placement site for LD 22 Lower.
 - Dredge Thompson replacement – due start of next dredging season.
- ILWW
 - Dredged significantly less than 10-year average (82,000 compared to 211,000 CY).
 - Dredging contract issues still ongoing
 - 401 issues still ongoing
 - Utilized Dredge Dubuque (St. Paul District) for critical dredging requirements.

Kenn Shoemaker,
Chief, CEMVR-OD

